

PRESENT STATE OF MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE IN ENGLAND.

IN our paper in No. XXII., upon Quacks and Quack Medicines, we stated sufficient to account for the predilection of the English people in favour of drugs and nostrums. There are, however, further causes which maintain the ascendancy of quackery, and which also may be traced to the general defects of our medical system, as well as to professional example. We shall, therefore, devote the present article to a rapid examination of the whole body of medical practitioners, in their several divisions of graduated physicians, operative surgeons, and apothecaries under the act of parliament.

The fee of the graduated physician is so enormous, in England, as to exceed the means not only of the lower but of the middle classes: his aid is therefore not demanded until the failure of the surgeon-apothecary, or, more correctly speaking, the physician-apothecary—for this practitioner perpetrates but little operative surgery beyond bleeding, drawing teeth, and puncturing purulent tumours when not dangerously situated. The physician, therefore, more commonly "comes in at the death;" but when he does not, his guinea visit of half-an-hour can give him no possible knowledge of the patient's idiosyncrasies. He is therefore obliged, in addition to what he can discover at a glance, to rely upon the report of his general-practising predecessor, who will naturally make out a case to justify the nature and quantity of medicine he has inflicted. The physician, even though he should lie to his conscience, will approve of the previous treatment; because to the general practitioner he stands precisely in the same light as the barrister stands to the attorney. By such a cursory glance he can do but little good; he however lauds the skill of the apothecary, writes a prescription, receives his fee, and makes his bow. He perhaps calls a second time unasked, to see the effect of his prescription, and declines taking a fee, if offered. Such are the professional doings of the medical graduate among the most numerous classes of English society.

But supposing the fee of the physician to come within the range of everybody's purse, his qualifications form the next subject for examination. We beg here generally to disavow all personalities: it is with the system only that we find fault. We undervalue no man's attainments; and we repeat, with pride, that England can put forth names of living physicians who may vie with the most skilful and celebrated.

The first obstacle to an improved state of medical science has resided in the London College of Physicians itself. No practitioners have hitherto been allowed to participate in its honours except those graduated at Oxford or Cambridge. Neither of these universities has a school of medicine, or affords any facilities for acquiring medical knowledge. The university lectures on any part of this branch of science, are mere idle ceremonies. They who take degrees there have no means, therefore, whilst in college, of qualifying themselves for practice. They are obliged to learn elsewhere healthy and morbid anatomy,—to acquire elsewhere all but very crude and general notions of the physiology of man and the signs of the diseases of which it is their avowed vocation to cure him, and which it is their duty to prevent as well as cure. To receive clinical or bed-side instruction, they are compelled to resort to other places where there are large hospitals. To study hygiene, and medical jurisprudence, they must leave the seat of learning which professes to teach them and does not do so, but grants them a degree founded upon the acquisition of classical learning or mathematical knowledge. These graduates constitute the president and fellows of the Royal College of Physicians in

London, whose doors remain closed against the most distinguished and most gifted doctors in medicine belonging to other schools; though assuredly, with some few exceptions, those on the outside of the temple are the most worthy of seats of honour within.

With the exception of the two infant schools of the London Universities, there is no real medical school in England. These are of such recent formation that there has not yet been time for any result, though we have no doubt that the good seed which has been sown in them, will, in due time, produce good fruit.

Unfortunately it is no test of sterling talent that brings a physician into the lucrative practice existing among the high-born and the wealthy. This may depend upon the mere caprice of fashion, aided by the sharpness and personal tact necessary to seize an opportunity. The patronage of an influential lady cured of an imaginary complaint, or whose weaknesses have been flattered, may create such an opportunity in favour of a man wholly inefficient, who will retain his post by the exercise of other good qualities, and by becoming the depository of family secrets. There are two kinds of the fashionable physician: one possessing the utmost blandness and fascination of manner, great facility of speech, and the most exquisite polish; the other pedantic, rude, and ill-mannered. Both maintain their ground by the same means; and both are positive quacks in their practice. It is therefore very usual for such as can afford and pay the price of the best advice, to obtain the most questionable.

Among our graduated practitioners generally, there is considerable deficiency in chemical as well as in pathological knowledge, to say nothing of real and comprehensive physiological philosophy. It follows, therefore, that besides the mistakes made in the nature of diseases, complicated compounds in the human body are provoked to the most dangerous exercise of the chemical affinities. We have now before us five prescriptions, written for as many patients, by a physician who resides at a fashionable place of summer resort. We know not to what diseases these remedies were opposed, but each contains, with a slight variation in the quantities, the same precise constituents. These are hydrocyanic acid, strychnia, sulphate of quinine, acetate of morphia, tartarized antimony, calomel, iodide of iron and camphor, with gum arabic, syrup, and water, as vehicles. Let any chemist fancy these substances, in frightfully large doses, obeying their chemical instincts in the human stomach. The quackery of this learned M.D., beyond the imposing appearance of so many items, is of the speculative kind, no doubt: he most probably fancies that if one article fail, another may succeed in relieving the patient. But he overlooks the exercise of chemical attraction between the substances, and especially the energetic action upon each other of the liberated arch-elements oxygen, chlorine, and iodine, each of which is to be found in these prescriptions. If it be difficult, as every sound philosopher will admit, to ascertain the effect upon the human system of even two compound chemical bodies combined to form a medicine, the union of the several substances we have enumerated, upon a mere speculation of benefit, is an act of the absolute and reckless insanity of ignorance.

An absurd piece of quackery general to the medical profession is the custom of continuing to write their prescriptions in a most execrable kind of Latin, instead of using the vernacular tongue. One of the reasons alleged in favour of this practice is, that could the uninformed read the prescription, they would have no confidence in the remedy. This is very probable, if they knew anything of medicine or chemistry,—not else; and all who have such knowledge could read the Latin prescription. To the uninformed, the chemical names of the drugs expressed in English would be quite as unintelligible as if written in Latin. Another reason

obtained his result in the laboratory, he communicated it to distinguished capitalists in Baden, who thereupon formed a company; not with a view, in the first instance, of erecting a manufactory upon the new system, but merely of proving its pretensions. To this end they advanced a considerable sum for setting up experimental works so large, that the thing could be tried on a manufacturing scale. Having done this at Ettingen, near Carlsruhe, they appointed a scientific and practical commission, to follow closely the experiments which Mr. Schutzenbach should make. Commissioners from the governments of Wurtemberg and Bavaria likewise attended. The experiments were carried on during five or six weeks, in which time several thousand pounds of sugar, of superior grain and purity, were produced.

The Baden company were so well satisfied with the report of the commission, that they immediately determined to erect an immense establishment, at an expense of more than 40,000*l.* sterling for fixtures only. A like sum was devoted to the current expenses of the works. Factories were simultaneously erected at or near Munich, Stuttgart, and Berlin. The arrangements were made with remarkable intelligence and caution; and we cannot doubt that the new method will prove of immense importance to the prosperity, comfort, and improvement of the northern nations and colonies of the Old World and the New.

PIERRE-LOUIS DULONG.

PIERRE-LOUIS DULONG was born at Paris, 1785: he became an orphan at the age of four years; and, though hardly possessing the most ordinary advantages of domestic instruction or public education, his premature talents and industry gained him admission, at the age of sixteen, to the Polytechnic School, which has been so fertile in the production of great men; of which he became afterwards successively examiner, professor, and director. He first followed the profession of medicine, which he abandoned on being appointed Professor of Chemistry to the Faculty of Sciences. He became a member of the Institute in 1823, in the section of the physical sciences. On the death of the elder Cuvier he was appointed Secrétaire Perpétuel to the Institute, a situation from which he was afterwards compelled to retire by the pressure of those infirmities which terminated in his death in the fifty-fourth year of his age.

M. Dulong was almost equally distinguished for his profound knowledge of chemistry and physical philosophy. His "Researches on the Mutual Decomposition of the Soluble and Insoluble Salts," form a most important contribution to our knowledge of chemical statics. He was the discoverer of the *hydrophosphorous acid*, and also of the *chlorure of azote*, the most dangerous of chemical compounds, and his experiments upon it were prosecuted with a courage nearly allied to rashness, which twice exposed his life to serious danger; and his memoirs on the "Combinations of Phosphorus with Oxygen," on the "*Hypponitric Acid*," on the oxalic acid, and other subjects, are sufficient to establish his character as a most ingenious and accurate experimenter, and as a chemical philosopher of the highest order.

But it is to his researches on the "Law of the Conduction of Heat," "On the Specific Heat of the Gases," and "On the Elastic Force of Steam at High Temperatures," that his permanent fame as a philosopher will rest most securely; the first of these inquiries, which were undertaken in conjunction with the late M. Petit, was published in 1817; and presents an admirable example of the combination of well-directed and most laborious and patient experiment with most sagacious and careful induction; these researches terminated, as is well known, in the very important correction of the celebrated law of conduction, which Newton had announced in the Principia, and which Laplace, Poisson, and Fourier had taken as the basis of their beautiful mathematical theories of the propagation of heat. His experiments on the elastic force of steam at high temperatures, and which were full of danger and difficulty, were undertaken at the request of the Institute, and furnish results of the highest practical value; and though the conclusions deduced from his "Researches on the Specific Heat of Gases" have not generally been admitted by chemical and physical philosophers, the memoir which contains them is replete with ingenious and novel speculations, which show a profound knowledge and familiar command of almost every department of physical science.

—Farewell Address of the Duke of Sussex.

THE ROSE OF JERICHO;

ANASTATICA HIEROCHUNTINA.

IN many parts of Germany a plant under the name of the Rose of Jericho is preserved, and made use of by its avaricious possessors for all sorts of juggling tricks and superstitious practices. The usual appearance of this vegetable body is that of a brown ball as large as a man's fist (formed by the little branches of the plant coiling up when perfectly dry), and is said to open only once a year, at Christmas. The miracle actually takes place, the plant expands and displays singular forms in its branches, which are compared to Turks' heads, and relapses again into its former shape before the eyes of the astonished beholders. Although few persons now-a-days believe that any unusual circumstances attend this appearance, yet the high price at which the balls are sold, (from twenty to twenty-five rix-dollars each), shows that there are still some dupes, and that the true cause of this change is not generally known; a few remarks, therefore, may not be unacceptable.

Peter Belon, who travelled in the East from 1540 to 1546, is the first who mentions this plant, although it appears to have been previously known in Italy; and he found it on the shores of the Red Sea. Leonard Rauwolf, of Augsburg, is said to have first brought it to Germany in 1576. Delisle found it growing in Egypt, in Barbary, and in Palestine.

It is an annual cruciferous plant, with oval leaves. The stem is five or six inches high, branched from the ground; it is soft at first, but afterwards becomes dry and woody. From the axils of the leaves rise small branches of white flowers, which are succeeded by an oval capsule, or seed-vessel, having its persistent style in the middle, and furnished with an ear-shaped appendage at each side, in which a lively imagination finds some resemblance to a turban. These pods have two divisions, each division containing two small oval seeds. The plant is of easy cultivation, the seed only requiring to be sown in a hot-bed in spring, and transplanted into the open ground in May. It flowers in June and ripens its seeds in September, after which the plant withers and apparently dies; but on being planted in moist earth, or being well watered where it originally grew, it assumes its former shape, the roots fix themselves firmly in the earth, the branches expand, and young leaves and flowers are developed.

It is grown in most botanical gardens, but never acquires the perfect form of those specimens which are brought from Egypt. When the seeds are ripe, the leaves fall off, and the ligneous branches bend inwards over each other, in the form of a ball, inclosing the seed-vessels within. In this state great numbers were brought to Europe by pilgrims in former times. When this dried plant is put into water, the branches unroll, and the pods become visible; on being dried again they again close,—an experiment which may be tried at any season of the year, and which is grounded solely on the property possessed by the fibres of the plant of expanding in moisture and contracting in drought,—a property which it is well known is applied to hygrometrical purposes, and which this plant possesses in a higher degree than most others. For this reason, Linnaeus named it *anastatica*, from *anastasis*, resurrection. The French call it simply, *la jerosse hygrometrique*, without any mystical allusion. As the quantity of moisture which this plant requires for its re-expansion is always the same, it is easily ascertained, by experiments, how long it must remain in water to imbibe a sufficient quantity, and also how much time is required for evaporation before it again closes. This property is very adroitly taken advantage of by impostors. The plant is moistened so as to open exactly at the given time: thus about Christmas they take it out of the water, as it is not absolutely necessary that it should remain in it till the very moment of unfolding, when by degrees the branches open, and again contract on the evaporation of the moisture.

In the East, these balls are rolled by the winds in the sandy deserts until chance throws them near some humid spot, when the branches spread out, the capsules open, and thus, by a beautiful provision of Providence, sow their seeds where they find the moisture necessary for their vegetation. The plant possesses neither beauty nor smell, but being imperishable, it is compared by the Roman Catholic Church to the deep humility of the Virgin. The natives ascribe to it the property of lightening the pains of child-birth, and tradition asserts it to have been the gift of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary; hence its Arabic name, *kay Maryam*, Mary's hand. It is believed to have opened spontaneously on the night of the birth of our Saviour, and again closed as before.

urged is, that foreign apothecaries and chemists would not understand an English prescription. No!—but they all understand French,—a language universal in Europe; so ought every English practitioner, if he would keep up his medical reading. Besides, we defy foreign apothecaries and druggists even to make out the words, much less to comprehend the intended meaning of the prescriptions written by many of our physicians, whose barbarous Latin words are tacked to an English idiom, as the strip of muslin for an embroidered trimming is tacked to its paper pattern.

The English school of surgery is excellent, thanks to the exertions of Cline, and Cooper, and Abernethy, and Lawrence, and Mayo, and Liston, and a long line of illustrious men. Still we have no very high opinion of the pathological, chemical, and medical knowledge, possessed by the general body of our operative surgeons. We very much regret to see that so many members of the "Royal College of Surgeons" are advertising quacks,—or rather that so many advertising quacks are members of the "Royal College of Surgeons."

Though many country surgeons, educated for operative surgery, are obliged, in order to compete with the physician-apothecaries, to become members of the Apothecaries' Company, by serving a fictitious apprenticeship to an apothecary, and thereby eluding the act of parliament, we never yet conversed with such a practitioner who did not reprobate the practice of a medical man selling his own drugs, as inconsistent with the feelings of a gentleman exercising a liberal and scientific profession. Many surgeons in large towns practise as physicians without a diploma; and we know of no law to prevent any man, qualified or not, from calling himself a surgeon, and practising as such, and from acting, in this capacity, as a prescribing physician. So cheap is the title of doctor held by the country people in many counties, that it is given not only to the apothecary, but to the most ignorant farrier and cow-leech; whilst the same rustics invariably call the graduated physician, "Mister," without his title.

One of the greatest evils attached to the practice of medicine, in England, because it makes quackery legal, is that precious piece of legislation called "The Apothecaries' Act." Men whose trade is the mere compounding or putting together of the medicines ordered by the physician, are hereby authorised to practise in reality as physicians, and to supply to their patients the medicines which they themselves prescribe, or rather judge necessary, for they do not write prescriptions except for their own shopmen or apprentices. This *drug practice* originated, in less enlightened times, in an abuse common to apothecaries and druggists,—that of giving medical advice, across the shop-counter, to those who came to purchase drugs, but could not afford to fee a physician. No restraint is now placed by law upon the doings of the apothecary-physician; on the contrary, he is supported in the impunity of abuse, and that which, in former times, was only tolerated, is now a matter of right. Can it be expected that, under such temptation, men will act conscientiously when in opposition to their private interest? Hence arises the pretension to obtain from drugs that which they can never yield; hence proceeds the temptation, which few practitioners can resist, to *exhibit* (we dearly love this word) medicines when the prescribing apothecary knows they are not needed, and is often aware that they are not taken. No matter! the only thing that interests him is that they should be paid for. Though at present allowed to claim a remuneration for their visits, apothecaries in London, and in other great cities, prefer the profits on their drugs, which some among them continue to send to a wealthy patient for many days, sometimes weeks, after he is well. Each day arrives a packet containing, with or without a box of pills, two or three elegantly labelled and delicate phials filled with a coloured liquid, and the cork

covered with pink or blue paper. We are acquainted with several general practitioners, who heartily condemn this disgraceful system, which they have too much honesty to pursue, and therefore do not realise fortunes.

There is another abuse, which is a crying injustice to the chemists and druggists, who are not allowed to prescribe for diseases and send out medicines to patients. The apothecaries are permitted to keep open shops, and retail drugs in competition with the retailing druggists. These licensed practitioners also set the example of secret remedies; they have their nostrums in the form of their "antibilious pills," their "cough lozenges," their "gout pills," their "antiscorbutic drops," their "plasters," and their "ointments." When taxed with quackery, their reply is, the public *will* be gulled; and that quackery is the parent of medical success. If this be true, whose fault is it? If then the example of compounding nostrums is set by professional men, who practise quackery *only as amateurs*, have we reason for surprise when we find professed quacks doing the same, especially as they can bribe the stamp office to affix its *imprimatur* * upon each bottle, or packet, or pill-box, and thereby secure an exclusive privilege of sale to the inventor?

We must now cast a glance at the medical qualifications of the physician-apothecaries under the act of parliament. By this statute every candidate for a licence to practise must be twenty-one years of age, and have served an apprenticeship of not less than five years to a licensed apothecary. He must likewise produce testimonials of a *sufficient* medical education, and of good moral conduct. He is then examined by twelve persons appointed by the society of apothecaries to ascertain his skill and ability "in the science and practice of medicine," and his fitness to practise as an apothecary. Now what is his sufficient medical education? During the period of his apprenticeship he is occupied in a shop pounding drugs, making up medicines, and selling pennyworths of rhubarb and jalap, and ounces of Epsom salts. Here he learns neither anatomy, nor physiology, nor pathology, nor chemistry; here he has no clinical instruction, no hygiene, no medical jurisprudence, no useful information; nothing, in short, except what he picks up accidentally, and by his own industry in reading when the regular shop hours are past. Yet this is termed a sufficient medical education! Towards the close of his servitude he sometimes, during his master's absence, sees patients in unimportant cases. At this time, he is also permitted to absent himself to attend the necessary lectures, a certificate of such attendance being necessary to enable him to go up for examination. If he succeed in this ordeal, he is let loose to practise his skill upon her Majesty's lieges as a physician-apothecary, which signifies that he is to cure, or attempt to cure, their ailments with his own drugs, on which he realises a profit of a thousand per cent. The examination takes place at Apothecaries' Hall; and any young man of ordinary capacity and industry may prepare himself for it in a month, provided he has made any reasonable use of his leisure hours during his apprenticeship. The examiners are themselves apothecaries, with the same feelings, prejudices, and interests, and eager to uphold their particular branch of the medical profession. Proud of the little brief authority in which they are dressed, a profusion of courtesy to the trembling candidate is not always among their official failings. In most points they bear no slight resemblance to the old examiners at Surgeons' Hall, so wittily described by Smollett. We have seen dunces totally unfit to practise medicine pass scathless through the running fire of their examination; and we have seen clever youths rejected, though fully as competent as their examiners, because, perhaps, they lost their presence of mind, and failed in construing Celsus, or in deciphering an illegible prescription, or in some point of equally trifling importance.

* The word *imprimatur*, in good old arbitrary times, was placed at the beginning of every printed book. It was the king's license to print the work. Its literal signification is, "Let it be printed." We need not, of course, inform the intelligent reader that we have used it figuratively in the text.

CURIOUS CONSTRUCTION OF MALAY HOUSES.

A MALAY has a great affection for a house built upon the water, so that we often see the shallower parts of a bay covered with buildings, with only one here and there upon the land. The convenience of a natural sewer may have induced them to make such a choice, as they seem to confine themselves to places where the tide sweeps away the recrements of the inhabitants without any care or labour on their part. Situations of this kind are sometimes very pleasant, but not always; for the buildings sometimes cover a salt marsh, as on one side of Singapore, where the scenery is not enticing, nor the breezes sweet and wooing; for at low water they fan and agitate various masses of matter in a state of decomposition. The houses at Borneo stand upon the water in the usual way, and though the tide runs at the rate of three or four miles an hour, the nauseous smells that visited us while at the palace of the sultan, told tales about the state of affairs at the bottom of the river. We know from experiment, that the water in a river runs with its greatest velocity at the surface and near the middle of the stream, and its power of removing obstructions, according to a fundamental principle of hydro-dynamics, depends upon the depth; it will not, therefore, appear strange that many impurities are lodged in the sides of the river, though the flood at mid-channel may run at the rate of four miles an hour; especially when we remember that this power is farther modified by the inequality of the bottom. These observations are neither unnecessary nor far-fetched, but help us to account for what at first sight appears paradoxical; for we say, "how can anything unwholesome remain in a medium of purity spread out in such a noble expanse as the river of Borneo?"

The houses extend on both sides of the river about a mile and a half, in a triple, and often in a multiple row; so that it is not easy to guess at their number, with a hope of coming near to the truth. On the south side there are, perhaps, seven hundred and fifty buildings, which, by assigning ten individuals to each, will make the number of persons there to be seven thousand five hundred. This allowance is not too great for each building, as it is often divided into several apartments, and augmented by appendages for the accommodation of as many families. On the north side there is a row which runs in a corresponding manner, about half a mile to the eastward, to which I reckon three hundred houses and three thousand inhabitants. But here there is a large divarication of the river, which, after a little distance, branches into several beautiful courses, or *ulus*, as the natives call them. Here there is a large *compitum*, filled in various places with houses, wherein the people live in dense crowds, and certainly do not amount to less than five thousand. In the western continuation of the houses on the north side, we have at least five thousand more: these several sums, being added together, give twenty-two thousand five hundred, which is under the true number. There are a few scattered about the surrounding country, which, when added to the foregoing number, make it more than thirty thousand as the entire population of this ancient colony of Malays. If they are correct in the account they gave us of their migration, it took place about four hundred years ago, and was from Johore, on the eastern side of the Malacca peninsula. Their remoter ancestors had, perhaps, in like manner, removed from Sumatra to the main-land, in quest of room and adventures. The houses rest upon piles formed out of the straight stem of the nibong palm, which is neat-looking and elastic at first, but the water soon reduces its outer portions; and the inner, being naturally soft and cellular, give way at once; so that a building soon needs repair in one or more of its supports. It is the nature of palms to be hard only in a dried woody crust, as the growth takes place near the centre, and not at the circumference. They are also destitute of a proper bark, or any gummy secretion, to answer the purpose of a natural varnish: hence the work of decay commences almost immediately after they are set in the water. The necessary repairs are seldom done in time; so that a house generally resembles a quadruped standing on three legs; though the reader must not understand me as meaning to say that an edifice has only four piers, for they are numerous, not only for present security, but as something laid up for the future. A Malay, however, takes all things easy, except an insult offered to his honour; and the work of decay is allowed to go on till the whole fabric is ready to tumble upon the head of its owner. We had an example of this while staying there; for the harem, or *astana*, was so near falling down, that, when the workmen went about removing some beams and rafters, the rest began to anticipate their labours. The doctor was soon called for with great vehemence: a spar, in its descent, had ploughed a deep furrow in

the pericranium of a chief man; and I had scarcely replaced my instruments, when another was brought to me with one of a similar kind in the side of his face. These occurring so closely together, put them upon some contrivances to prevent similar disasters, or I should have had a fair day's work in dressing wounds and bruises. The walls and roof are generally formed of palm-leaves, which agrees very well with the nature of this foundation, being light and of easy construction. A platform of palm split into pieces surrounds one or two sides of the building, for the convenience of passing to the nearest dwelling, and leads down to the water by a ladder not remarkable for the facility and comfort with which it may be ascended. Use, however, reconciles a man to many strange things. The thatch and walls of these dwellings are generally old and dishevelled, which gives them a very shabby appearance; a defect by no means obvious to the natives, as they commended some of them as very excellent in show and accommodation. There was not that regularity in the situation and relative size of the apartments which we observe among the Chinese; but in general we shall be pretty near the truth, if we say that the front was occupied by the master and his male dependants, while the back and more retired parts were filled by a train of females. The former were busily employed in carpentry, boat-building, and in the making of various utensils for the use of their master's establishment. The latter endeavoured to cheat their prison-hours by setting their hands to different kinds of needle-work, or, gathered together in numerous clusters, were fain to steal a glance through a favouring loop-hole at the mien and costume of the stranger, of whom they had heard little and seen less. I was sent for on one occasion to see a little child, affected with one of the cutaneous disorders so common among this people, and was received with much attention by a middle-aged chief, whose person and manly countenance pleased me exceedingly. He was sitting in the centre of a large room, with a small Chinese tea-tray by his side, and looking to some of his followers, who were pursuing their mechanic labours under his directions. In the next apartment were heard the movements of a swarm of females, who, in my imagination, seemed to run upon the side of the wall, like so many mice, to look through a few crevices which the joiner had left near the roof. By what means they ascended I do not pretend to guess, but the impression on my mind was exactly as I have described it. As often as the chief lifted up his eyes towards the wall, those on the other side, thinking that we could see them because they could see us, instantly began to run down in order to escape recognition. Here we had a crowd of delinquents condemned to perpetual durance, whose only offence was that they had some personal comeliness, or more attractions than the rest of their companions.—*Voyage of the Himmaleh.*

THE LAST DAYS OF MURAT, KING OF NAPLES*.

A WEARIED and exhausted stranger presented himself at the door of a lonely cottage, a few miles distant from a bay which opened upon the Mediterranean, a few leagues from the harbour of Toulon. He was a man apparently of middle age; and, though misery was stamped upon his aspect, his air was noble and his form majestic. His garments were torn and drenched with rain, his features haggard, and a dark beard of three days' growth, contrasting with the pallor of his complexion, added not a little to the ghastliness of his appearance. His dress was the blue cloth cap and long grey surtout usually worn by French soldiers on the march. He seemed as one worn down with watching, and fatigue, and hunger, and his enfeebled limbs could scarcely bear him to the door of the humble mansion. Yet there was resolution in his eye, and wretched as was his present plight, no one could look on him and doubt that he had moved in scenes both of splendour and of high achievement, as one to whom they were familiar. He hesitated for a moment ere he sought entrance, but it seemed that he had prepared himself for whatever fortune might befall him, for, without pausing even to listen or to look around, he raised the latch and boldly entered.

An old woman was the occupant of the single room that constituted the interior of the cabin, the furniture of which sufficiently attested the poverty of its inhabitant. But, though poor, she was charitable. The appearance of the stranger declared his wants, and she made haste to set before him such humble food as she possessed, to heap fuel on the coals that lay smouldering on the hearth, and to prepare for him a rude couch of straw, covered with blankets, in one corner of the room, before which she hung

* From the Gift of 1839.